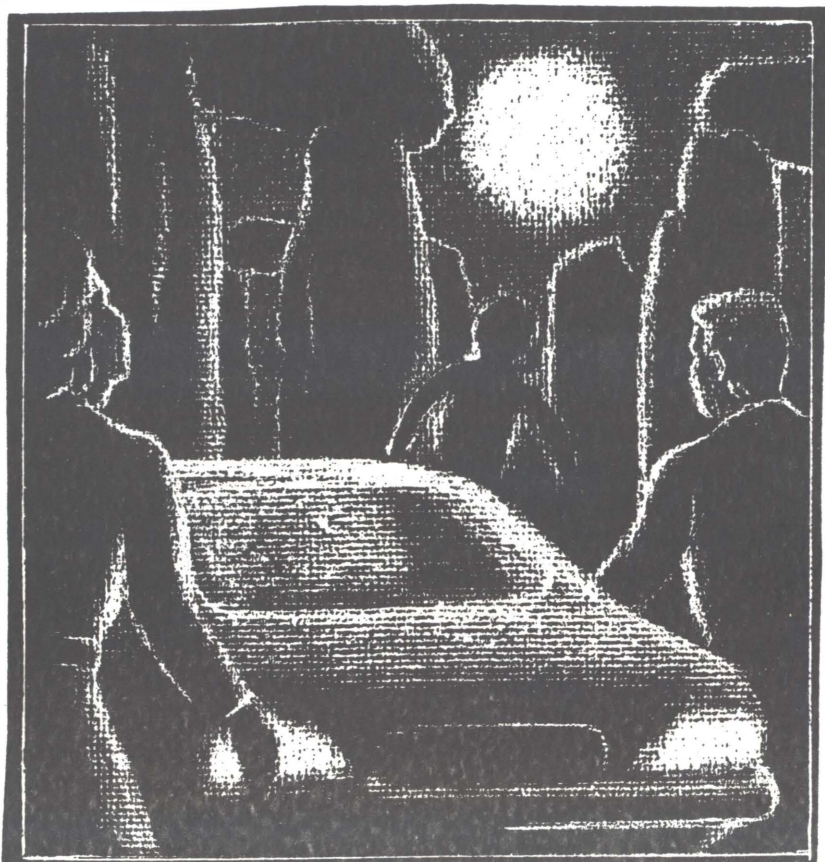


The new

Ufologist

Number 2



The Stonehenge UFO Event

Albert Budden presents a new close encounter case.

UFO Cover Up

An examination of the media by Neil Nixon.

**The US General Accounting Office
investigation into the Roswell "UFO
Crash"**

Paul Fuller with new evidence.

New case history from Sweden

£2.50

CONTENTS

The Stonehenge UFO Event. Albert Budden.	3
Sightings Update. Jenny Randles.	11
The House On The Moors (Part Two). Jenny Randles.	13
Calendar.	16
UFO Cover Up. Neil Nixon.	17
European Network - A case from Sweden. Tony Walter.	20
Reviews.	21
Right To Reply.	23
The Skeptical View. Roswell A Case Solved. Paul Fuller.	25
The Skeptical View. Further comments. Jenny Randles.	30
The Last Word.	32

Editorial Address:

The New UFOlogist.
71 Knight Avenue,
Canterbury. Kent.
CT2 8PY.
England.

Fax: +44 1227 764589.

E-mail address:

michaelhudson@f611.n2500.z2.fidonet.org

Next issue published
10th February 1995.

Front cover illustration
courtesy of Michael Buhler.

Editorial Panel:-

Albert Budden.
Paul Fuller.
Rodney Howarth.
Michael Hudson.
Jenny Randles.

The New UFOlogist is published
quarterly and is available for a
subscription fee of £8.00 UK,
£12.00 for Europe and US\$20.00
for the rest of the world.

Back issues available upon request
please make all cheques payable
to "The New UFOlogist".

Submission of material for
inclusion in The New UFOlogist
should be sent to the editorial
address. Texts can either be
submitted on computer disk or
paper format. Requests for return
of material should be accompanied
by a stamped addressed envelope.

No part of this journal may be
reproduced, stored in a retrieval
system, transmitted in any form or
by any means electronic, mechanical,
photocopying, recording or
otherwise without either the prior
written permission of the publisher
or the named author.

Copyright © 1994 by The New
UFOlogist. All Rights Reserved.

The Stonehenge UFO Event

by Albert Budden.

Albert Budden worked for the Scientific Civil Service for three years and has taught science in many state schools after obtaining a degree in education, specialising in biology and sociology. He has written and lectured on his chosen areas of study and has investigated numerous case reports over the last fourteen years. He is a member of the Environmental Medicine Foundation.

This case must be one of the most intriguing close encounter events of the past few years, although it has had very little publicity and is virtually unknown. After presenting it at BUFORA's International Conference at the University of Bristol in the Summer of 1993, I was inundated with requests with not only more information, but to expand on the analysis of it that I had hinted at during the latter part of my lecture.

This was that the huge orange ball of light which featured so largely in the action of this encounter was a Devereux-style earthlight which induced a hallucinatory reality for the two witnesses by irradiating their nervous systems with its electromagnetic fields.

I was surprised to find so many

people who were unaware of Dr Michael Persinger's work on this concept as a means for understanding the close encounter experience generally, and even more amazed to realise that Paul Devereux's definitive studies on earthlights as luminous spheres of electromagnetic energy originating in geological fault zones, was either unknown to them or disregarded. This was peculiar for me, as I had installed such concepts into my view of the UFO phenomenon years ago and had been applying them as a matter of course for years. I have also extended and refined this identification of electromagnetic fields as the source for 'close encounter imagery in ALLERGIES AND ALIENS.

Devereux's book was published in the watershed year of 1982, and since then, when it made its initial impact, it was as if the ETH enthusiasts, irritated by a temporary set-back, had in their hearts and minds, constructed an Indian-style reservation, placed the earthlight/Persinger concept there, and so contained was conveniently ignored.

It was only two years earlier when the same brand of ETH as in full flood via a blaze in Rendlesham forest which dazzled anyone who even casually looked its way, and in this simplistic and salebale

glare, returned to business as usual on the ETH scene. The earthlight/Persinger concepts were tucked away at the back of the shop and forgotten. However, the adolescent fantasies of the ETH are now under renewed assault by myself and co-worker, Anne Silk at Great Missenden, England. We feel that the ETH faith is irresponsibly dangerous, because it actively directs the attention of those who have been subject to the alien contact effect away from the real cause of their experiences: electromagnetic pollution.

THE STONEHENGE ENCOUNTER

On or around 18th November 1990 at about 8.30 in the evening, a young professional couple, Dorne and Lee, were driving back to London after visiting relatives in Wales. They felt reluctant to return home to their daily routines and decided to take in the prehistoric monument to make the journey home more interesting. It was a clear frosty night with a cloudless sky sprinkled with stars and a bright full moon. They eventually reached the A344 approach road to Stonehenge and drove through the flat and monotonous scenery of Salisbury Plain.

They passed through a number of cross-roads formed by minor roads leading off to the left and right, and as they sped along they noticed ahead of them, a small copse of trees from which emanated an eerie orange glow. Dorne noticed an odd two-dimensional quality to this small section of woodland, which she quickly forgot about, because as they drew near, a huge orange ball of light rose up from

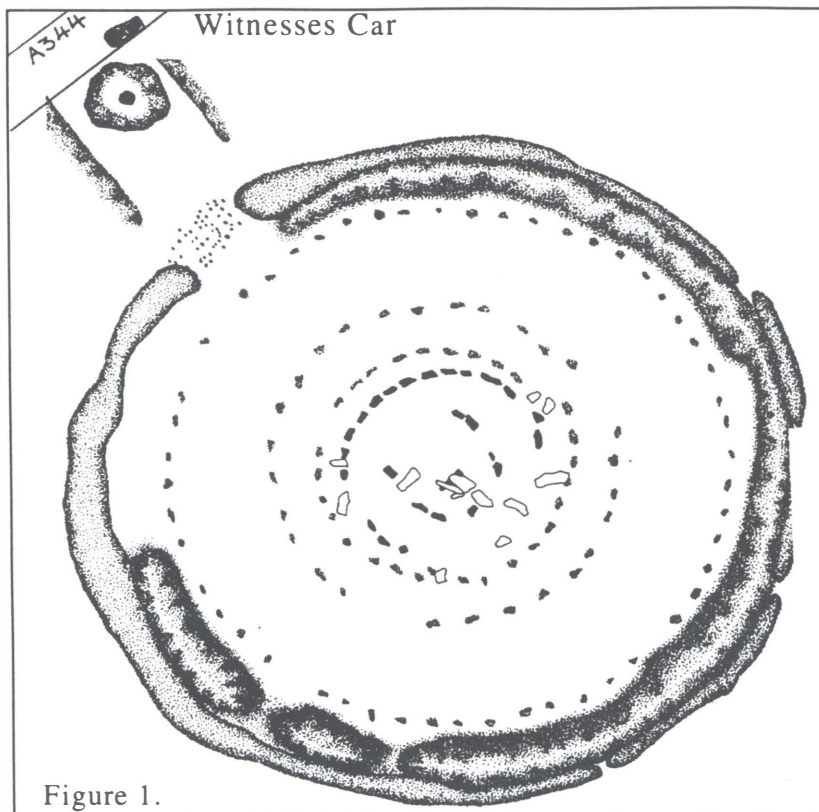


Figure 1.

Diagrammatic plan of Stonehenge showing location of witnesses.

behind it, and hovered in the air about fifty feet above them. Amazed, Dorne asked Lee what it could possibly be as they peered upwards through the windscreen as they passed below it.

Surprisingly unimpressed, Lee said something dismissive in a disinterested tone and pressed on. Dorne however, was fascinated by the huge luminous globe (about ten feet across) especially when it shot away from its stationary position and paced the car to the right as they continued towards the ancient monument.

Before they got there however, something else strange occurred. As they drew near to the general monument area, the headlights illuminated a band of fog which stretched across the road in front of them. This was about two feet wide at the height of the car windscreen

with a clear space underneath, and probably extended further either side of the road into the darkness. It reminded Dorne of the barriers at border-posts when one is entering another country, and indeed, as soon as they had driven through it, they felt as if they had in fact entered The Twilight Zone.

There was a distinct change in atmosphere; everything was bathed in an eerie silence with an overwhelming sense of stillness and isolation. Dorne later commented, "It felt as if we were the only two people left in the world". This effect was further enhanced by the absence of any other cars in the area, and no vehicle had passed them in either direction for some time.

EVENTS AT THE MONUMENT

The sphere of orange light was

still keeping them company as they drew into the lay-by beside the security fence that surrounds the henge itself. Dorne, although quite unnerved by the presence of the huge light, was eager to get out of the car "to have a good look at the thing". Lee, although decidedly unimpressed by it, remembered from the few books he had read on UFOs, that they could immobilise cars, and deliberately left the engine running.

Stonehenge was on their right, and across the road was what Dorne described as "a perfectly flat field", over which the ball of light hovered about sixty feet up. Lee however, for reasons known only to himself, (although we have some insights from Dorne) decided that as an amateur astronomer, the moon held far more interest for him, and he stood on one side of the car facing it over Stonehenge, with his back to where the ball of light hung in the sky.

Dorne had hardly begun to examine the glowing sphere when it shot sideways from a standing start and halted equally abruptly a short distance away. It then began a sequence of aerial manoeuvres which took Dorne's breath away. It sped across the field just above ground level, and then hurtled vertically upwards and stopped, and then shot sideways again, winked out for a second or two and then reappeared in a different part of the sky only to dive vertically down towards the ground, stopping a few feet from it. Dorne relates that it outlined a huge rectangle in the air by its movements, and she had the distinct feeling that it was holding her attention and

performing for her. Sometimes it would suddenly disappear behind a small hillock or mound in the middle of the field and re-emerge after a moment or two.

During this time, she would implore Lee to turn around and look, but he seemed equally engrossed in taking in the sight of Stonehenge by moonlight. Dorne later described the weirdly absurd scene where they were each standing with their backs to each other on either side of the car, looking in opposite directions. It was also during this period that Dorne turned away from the light for a moment to see what Lee was doing, and realised that Stonehenge was quite spectacular by moonlight, and went over to where he was and reached over the fence to place her hand on the small heel-stone. This was a sort of "I actually touched Stonehenge" gesture, as this small stone was well away from the main group of standing stones. However, even this simple tourist-like act had its strange aspects. Dorne relates: "As I watched the orange ball, I just rested my hand against the stone, and it was as if my hand had stuck to it and it felt all tingly..."

She then returned to her side of the car, and suddenly decided to "wake Lee up" and called to him to get a loaded camera from the car. His response was not what she expected, without warning he wheeled round and screamed at her to get into the car, scrambling to do so himself. There was something in his voice which made Dorne react immediately and she dived into the passenger seat, slamming the door quickly behind her. It took a split second for Lee to

engage the gears and the car lurched away into the darkness, tyres screeching. Thoroughly shaken, he drove at high speed away from Stonehenge, and Dorne's bemusement was not helped by the appearance of another weird band of fog across the road, identical to the first. She glanced out of the window to see the ball of light again pacing the car.

They drove for several miles before they decided to stop in a lay-by to take stock of events. Dorne was of course eager to know what it was that had frightened Lee so much, and at this point he told her.

Whilst he had been admiring the monument in the moonlight, he suddenly noticed a dark figure in the middle distance beside one of the larger stones. He did not see where he came from; he was just suddenly there. He had been somewhat apprehensive about the abrasive reputation of the security guards at Stonehenge, and he thought idly that this figure was possibly the night-shift making an appearance. He was then further unnerved to see it plod purposefully towards him, stamping heavily in the thick autumn leaves.

Dorne interrupted Lee at this point to say that there were no leaves around the standing stones, as there were no trees nearby, and anyway, the wind which howled across the plain would have blown them all away.

Lee insisted that he distinctly heard the sound of heavy footsteps in a thick layer of leaves, and went on to say that he was surprised how quickly

the dark figure covered the distance towards him. It was only when it approached the high security fencing that he realised that it was no ordinary man. It was about seven feet tall and correspondingly broad, and was completely black and featureless all over from head to toe. No face or clothing could be seen, a humanoid blank. He had hardly taken this in when he realised that it was now right against the fencing, and it had flashed through his mind that at least the fence was between them. It was at this point that Dorne had called him to get the camera, and he snapped out of his mesmerised state into total panic and cold fear, and he screamed at Dorne to get into the car.

Then things seemed to happen in slow-motion. As he turned to get to the car he saw that the figure was now on their side of the security fence, and when he reached the car door it was actually behind the car. After closing the door and as he slammed it into gear, it was beside the car on his side, and he was thankful to be able to roar away into the darkness, leaving it behind them.

POST-ENCOUNTER EVENTS

Dorne saw and knew nothing of this huge dark figure, and had her own story to tell about the acrobatic movements of the ball of light. She now laughs at the situation; in her own words: "Well Lee was telling me this happened, and I was telling him well that happened, and it was ridiculous. Even though we had both been in the same situation it was as if we had not been there together at all!"

From this, as with so many dual-witness encounters, it is clear that their perceptions were largely segregated. One thing they did share however, was the banana surprise! After excitedly telling each other of their experiences they both noticed that a fresh banana (Dorne is vegetarian) which had been placed just inside the windscreen on top of the dashboard had changed dramatically. It was blackened, disgustingly over-ripe and oozing, and although they had both thought "This is evidence...", they threw it out of the car window.

Whilst they talked they could still see the ball of light hovering some distance away, and after driving on and reaching the motorway after a further twenty minutes of driving, it finally "winked out" as Dorne put it. However, it was only when they saw the traffic that they realised "this is how it should have been" that the full enormity of the strangeness of their experience hit them. Dorne described it as like waking up from a dream, although at the time it had seemed "the most natural thing in the world". It was then that they became very frightened, and on reaching London, they went to a friend's house and ended up sleeping on the floor rather than go home.

AFTERMATH AND WITNESS BACKGROUND

In the following weeks both witnesses experienced a number of effects that they could not readily explain. They both lived in a shared house with their own rooms, and found that objects in one room would be found mysteriously in the

other. That is to say, Dorne's personal possessions would turn up in Lee's room and hers in his. This effect can be caused by automatic behaviour where the subject carries out routine actions and has no memory of having done so, and is a symptom of EH that has been recorded on video for medical training purposes.

As with so many close encounter witnesses, Dorne has a long history of paranormal experiences reaching back to childhood. These included visionary episodes, past lives, out of body experiences and precognition. She had also experienced UFO sightings, most of which she regarded with some humour as entirely illusory. In fact, Dorne is evidently an intelligent and balanced young woman, with a ready wit and an appropriate sense of humour regarding her perceptions. For example, when she was about fourteen she watched a huge glittering "flying saucer" straight out of the comic books hovering over her house, and recalls thinking how stereotyped it looked with its flashing lights. Also, as with other similar witnesses, she has talents in the visual arts and is a graduate teacher in art at a state school.

Lee worked in the computer world and has an educational background in science and technology. Dorne relates that his view of the world is strictly orthodox and does not admit what he regards as fringe realities or topics. Consequently, he was certainly not pleased to have a confrontation with what could only be called a UFO. This rigidity, she explained, was why he did not respond to the ball of light as being anything

unusual, and tried to almost deny its existence. However, after the event at Stonehenge he began to experience some startling extra-sensory phenomena. He found that he could anticipate exactly what others were thinking and were going to say next; something he had never done before. This effect was especially enhanced with Dorne.

THE RETURN VISIT TO STONEHENGE

Some months later, in the Summer of 1991, Dorne made a return visit to Stonehenge with some friends during daylight hours. They covered the same route she had taken with Lee on the night of the encounter, and was surprised to find that the copse of trees from which they saw the ball of light emerge did not exist.

Also, at the monument itself, it was clearly impossible for anyone to have reached over the security fence to touch the heel-stone due to its distance and the height of the fence itself. Another curious aspect was that the "perfectly flat field" was in fact, just that. There was no small hillock that the ball of light could have hidden behind during its manoeuvres that November night.

SOME INSIGHTS

The first section of this article mentioned earthlights. These natural light forms (the subject of a revised book by Devereux called *Earthlight Revelation*. ISBN 0-7137-2029-8), manifest as spheres of light (and other forms) which float freely in the atmosphere. Collections of reports around

fault zones have clearly indicated the electromagnetic nature of them as aerial bodies which are extensions of geomagnetic and goelectric radiation which emanates from such breaks in the 'earth's strata.

It was Dr Michael Persinger who showed in controlled experiments how irradiation of the temporal lobes of the brain produces sensations which largely match those consistently reported by close encounter witnesses. They are: bodily tingling, immobilisation, floating sensations, life views, intense meaningfulness and religious feelings. All of these and more are subsidiary encounter and post-encounter effects as entirely hallucinatory

experiences.

Persinger used ELF milligauss intensity magnetic fields aimed specifically at the most electrically unstable part of the brain: the temporal lobes. What he was doing in effect, was inducing a very mild state of non-convulsive temporal lobe epilepsy, and it was found that his subjects in some cases, hallucinated spontaneously several days after the experiment. Therefore, it was Persinger's work which showed us that it was exposure to electromagnetic fields which produced these strange experiences, rather than some unknown "alien" effect. It was just a small step to connect these findings with Devereux's earthlights as powerful sources

of electromagnetic radiation, and that proximity to these lightforms would induce the close encounter sensations reported by so many. That is to say, the Persinger/Devereux discoveries provided a solution to the paradox of physically real UFOs which could be witnessed by multiples of witnesses from different locations, with the fantastic and subjective alien contact effect.

AFTER PERSINGER/DEVEREUX

Persinger chose the temporal lobes partly because they are the most electrically unstable part of the brain. In this model, anyone could be affected by a close encounter with an earthlight, or any other suitable

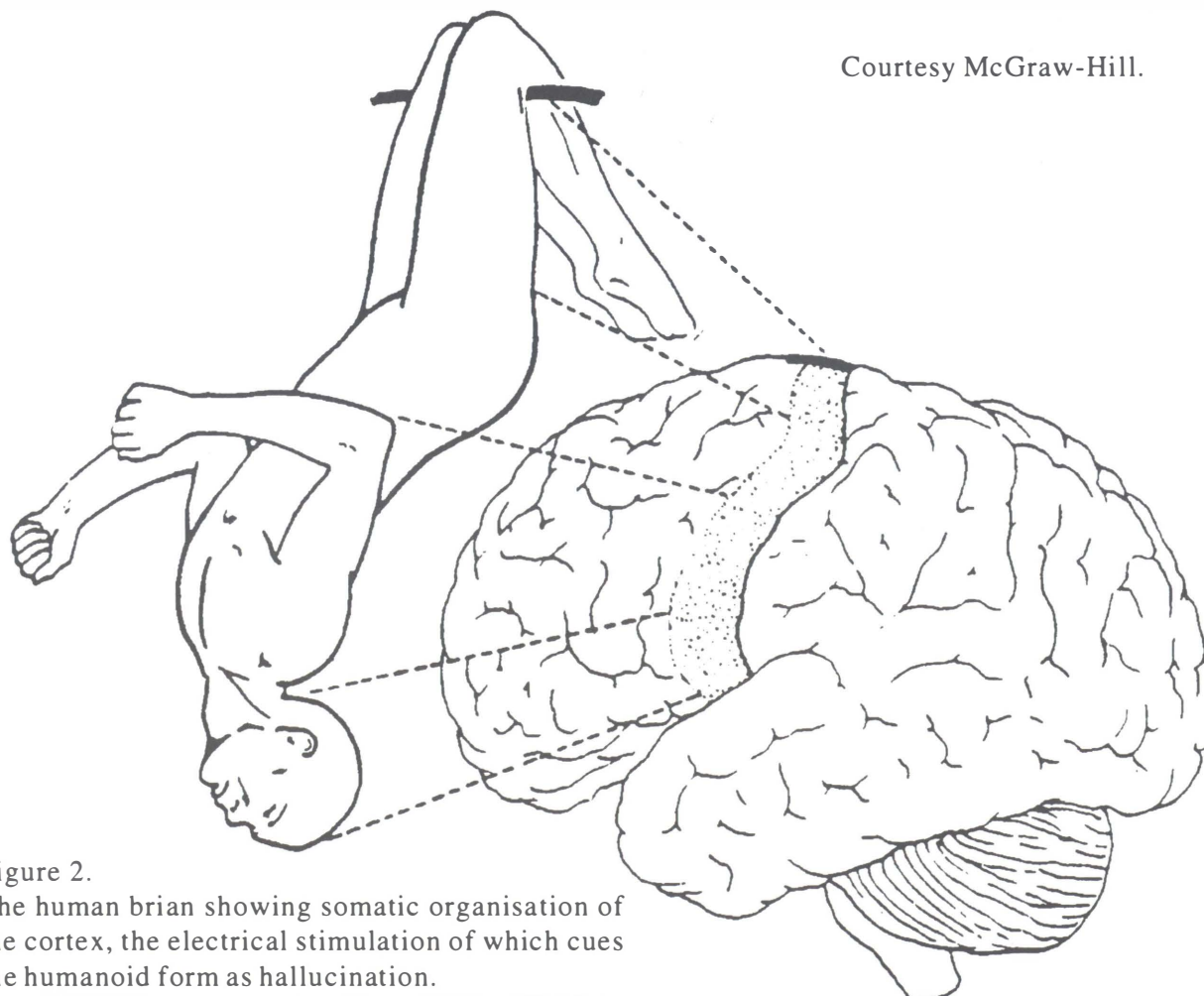


Figure 2.
The human brain showing somatic organisation of the cortex, the electrical stimulation of which cues the humanoid form as hallucination.

Courtesy McGraw-Hill.

source of EM radiation. However, if this extra-sensitivity associated with the temporal lobes could be extended to apply to not only other brain areas, but the whole body, then there would be a way to explain and understand the whole range of close encounter effects reported. These include visual and auditory hallucination, dermal irritation, "missing time", nasal implants" etc. In fact all of the consistently reported physical after-effects described by much publicised American investigators, which quite absurdly, are misidentified as the work of aliens from another planet.

ELECTRICAL HYPERSENSITIVITY (EH)

It is precisely this whole body sensitivity to EM fields that is embodied in the environmental health approach. In my own investigations and research I have found that the individuals who undergo the alien contact effect have a condition called electrical hypersensitivity (EH) and multiple allergy. It is this sensitivity to the EM fields in the environment that induces the vivid visionary dramas known as the alien contact experience.

EH is induced by prolonged irradiation from a variety of EM sources such as pylons and radio-frequency (RF) transmitters in field-elevated areas known as hot spots and is frequently kick-started in the physiology of the individual by exposure to a major electrical event. This may be proximity to a lightning strike, ball lightning, earthlights, anomalous light phenomena, major

electrocution etc. It is this close and powerful exposure to EM fields which sets the body up for EH and the subsequent paranormal experiences associated with it, such as the alien contact effect. Early stages of acute EH are typified by reports of visual hallucinations of dark formed figures and ESP effects, which are extremely commonly reported. It is significant to realise therefore, that Dorne and Lee's exposure to an earthlight constituted a major electrical event, and their subsequent paranormal experiences are a typical response to this dramatic change in their electrical sensitivities, especially as Dorne's history indicates that she had already encountered anomalous light phenomena earlier in her life.

Therefore, the model which embodies temporal lobe sensitivity is extended to not only other brain areas, but the whole physiology of EH individuals, and the EM environment is widened to include not only geological originating EM fields, which of course, earthlights are an expression of, but to other artificial electrical and electronic sources of electromagnetism. However, both may mix and match where the DC of earth energies intermodulates with the AC of these man-made transmitters, to create potent hot spots.

Therefore, the development of the EM pollution/environmental health approach is analogous to solving the paradox that Persinger and Devereux presented i.e. physical UFOs/subjective alien contact experiences. It allows us to

understand how individuals who undergo the subjective CE4 experience are able to present us with physical injuries. These can occur with spontaneously with EH/allergic "UFO naive" subjects, and are therefore able to be contained with the largely untestable psychosomatic approach of psycho-social theory.

UNDERSTANDING THE STONEHENGE EVENT

Let us now see how these scientific principles allow us an understanding of the Stonehenge event. Firstly, does the area have any significant geology in terms of faulting? That is to say, could it be described as earthlight country?

Geological Survey records tell us that the area of Salisbury Plain contains swarms of dip and strike faults with discontinuities throughout. (These are where a layer of strata suddenly ends due to geological deformation long ago). This is a prime area for earthlight production, likely to become active during tectonic strain induced by the gravitational effect of the moon, which was in its fullest phase at that time. It would seem therefore, that the area around Stonehenge would be saturated by criss-crossing and overlapping EM fields of geological origin at that peak period.

Also, looking at the profile for electronic pollution, we can find at least five RF transmitters (at Thruxton, Netheravon, Middle Wallop, Amesbury and North Tidworth) associated with the military within a five mile radius, who Dorne was

told by the Stonehenge security guards, were on an exercise that night. The closest of these at Amesbury, less than a mile south of the stones, overlooks Dorne's "perfectly flat field". In addition, to the north of the stones, within an approximate maximum 25 mile radius, there are at least a further 18 RF transmitters, with another five to the east about the same range. The flat terrain would allow obscured laser-like beams of line-of-sight transmissions between military posts, and a military exercise would no doubt have utilised numerous radar communication and mobile detection devices, both of which utilise pulsed microwaves. It is common knowledge that the military use much higher frequencies and field strengths than civilian sources.

Therefore, we can begin to build up a picture of elevated EM field levels in the area that night, which as stated, would have consisted of spectacular intermodulation effects between the natural and artificial emissions. An earthlight, as a centre of EM energies floating freely in the atmosphere, would have been subject to these transmissions as coherent beams of charged electrons, and in such energetic streams, would have been drawn along at high velocities and regular trajectories just as Dorne described.

It is clear that Dorne and Lee drove into this field-saturated area and both entered neurologically active altered states. This was the strange Twilight Zone effect, where the sensations of eerie silence and timeless isolation were induced by the effects of elevated EM

fields on the brain. It has been found experimentally that this eerie silence called the "OZ factor" by Jenny Randles, can be induced by the electrical stimulation of the reticular portions of the mid and fore-brain. Similarly, the sense of timelessness was also reported by Persinger's temporal lobe-irradiated objects, and is known as desynchronisation. It is significant to note that these perceptual effects are shared hallucinations induced by the same frequencies affecting the same brain areas. (hence the consistency found in entity types i.e. they have a neurological basis)

But why should the boundaries of such an EM hot spot be marked by strange bands of mist? We must remember that we are considering the interface between areas of average ambient field levels and the highly charged and energetic atmosphere of a EM hot spot zone. I have found that the inhabitants of, and visitors to such areas (e.g. the Dyfed area in the late 1970s which was saturated with ELF fields from RAF Brawdy due an on-going project to develop a submarine communication system) speak of the constant presence of a warm "mini-climate" where temperatures are raised above seasonal averages. It is this thermal effect which we can reasonably assume, that significantly changed the atmosphere of the Stonehenge area, creating an altered dew-point, thereby inducing the formation of ground mist by melting ambient frost particles and making available atmospheric water.

But why the absence of traffic?

Once again, if we consider that there was a large area where raised levels of EM fields created a huge hot spot, we can convincingly hypothesise that both vehicles and their occupants would have been affected. We can make a calculated guess and visualise a scenario where cars have stalled or drivers have become disorientated during their approach to the area due to such powerful EM effects, and that Dorne and Lee just evaded such effects by chance timing i.e. they arrived after seismic or powerful transmission events occurred, or at a non-peak period. Alternatively, perhaps there were just no vehicles in the area at that time due to restrictions imposed by the military, and that Dorne and Lee just slipped through the net, or simply that there was no traffic at all. After all, late evening on a November night is not exactly a peak time for tourism.

HALLUCINATORY REALITIES

Space does not allow for a complete analysis of this key aspect. However, there is little doubt that the huge dark humanoid figure perceived by Lee was a hallucination induced by the action of EM fields on the brain. Dark figures are probably the most commonly reported of formed figure hallucinations. The brain can produce them as a response to the electrical field stimulation of the strip-like area across the top of the cortex responsible for the somatic organisation/co-ordination of the body as a whole (see figure 2). Such forms are typically abbreviated in terms of detail and coloration (i.e. black/white or grey)

reflecting the neurological limitation of the mind to produce such figures, and it relevant to note that many apparitional forms share this abbreviation of form i.e. grey figures and the "woman in black", which also have vague facial features and limb extremities.

Lee was already quite apprehensive about the abrasive reputation of the security guards at Stonehenge, and this figure did act out a stereotyped threatening approach with its hallucinatory leaf-stamping, impossible speed and equally impossible negotiation of the security fence. A line from Macbeth comes to mind here: "Tis but a painting of my fear..."

ON EVIDENCE AND OPTICAL EFFECTS

The non-existent copse of trees seen during the approach and the mound in the "perfectly flat field" may be elements which relate to optical aspects to do with the formation and behaviour of the earthlight. We must remember that we are considering a dark featureless landscape through which the witnesses were moving at speed. Devereux, provides us with numerous descriptions of the fragmentary luminous aspects of earthlights, and seen only as silhouette, these shape shifting light forms can create visual impressions onto which the mind will impose its own sensory interpretations.

Descriptions of points of light which form into spheres are not uncommon in Devereux's work. Was the "copse of trees" the spot where the earthlight actually emerged from the

ground as a cloud of separate lights from the swarms of dip and strike faults there, which then coalesced into a globe of light? Was is luminous mosaic interpreted as branches on a copse of trees? Did this globe then became magnetically attracted to the car which passed by at that moment?

Similarly, partial formations and changing forms occur where the fields of these lightforms are in flux it would seem. The human eye registers visible light only, and it is not difficult to imagine how it would interpret the sudden but transient loss of illumination in these mercurial fluctuations as a ball of light obscured by such an object as a phantom mound. After all, Dorne did also describe how the light sometimes vanished and reappeared well away from ground level, and this suggests that it still existed as a concentration of invisible fields, but intermittently lost that part of its EM output that the human eye could apprehend visible light.

VERACITY OF EVIDENCE

Another, and somewhat unpopular option relates to the veracity of evidence. Someone who has attracted the attention of UFO/paranormal investigators due to a genuinely strange experience is prone to "subsidiary mystery". This is where their core experience becomes embedded within other smaller mysteries, created by the sense of factual freedom engendered by the central anomaly. In this atmosphere of suspended critical faculties, sometimes, anything goes. What does it

matter if accuracy is disregarded? Or so the attitude goes. Phantom trees are far more interesting than making sure that the location is accurately pinpointed. Let's face it. Trees do not just vanish, do they? If this were the investigation of a crime by the police, they would infer that the witness had made a mistake.

CONCLUDING BANANA.

The effects on the banana are important. It was physical evidence which persisted after the event. What could possibly speed up its ripening so dramatically, to the point of seeming as if it had been cooked? The heat of the car may have been instrumental, and intense ultra-violet and infra-red light could have produced this effect, but even this irradiation would have taken longer one would think. Could it be that the water-content of this soft fruit was subjected to the thermal effects of microwaves?

ALLERGIES AND ALIENS

The Visitation Experience: An Environmental Health Issue.

Can be obtained from:
Discovery Times Press,
270, Sandycombe Road,
Kew. Surrey. TW9 3NP. UK.
Price: £5.50.(inc p+p)

REFERENCES.

1. *Earthlights*. Paul Devereux. Turnstone. 1982.
2. *Enhancement of Temporal Lobe-Related Experiences During Brief Exposures to Milligauss ELF Magnetic Fields*. Ruttan. Persinger. Koren.

- Journal of Bioelectricity*.9(1) 33-54.
- 3.*Electromagnetic Man*. C.W. Smith and S.Best. Dent. 1989.
- 4.*Breakspear Hospital, Hemel Hempstead,Herts.UK*.
- 5.*Radio Amateurs Guide to EMC*. Robin Page Jones. Radio Society of Great Britain. 1993.
- 6.*Allergies and Aliens*. A.Budden.Discovery Times Press.1994.
- 7.*Geological Survey.Wiltshire*.1989.
- 8.*The Nervous System*. Nathan. OUP.1988.
- 9.*Handbook of Magnetic Phenomena*.Burke. Van Nostrand Reinhold.1986.
- 10.*Progressing Psych-obiology*. R.Thompson. Freeman. USA. 1976.
- 11.*Electroclinical Syndromes*.H.Luders.1987.
- 12.*Basic Neurology*. Gilroy. Pergamon.1990.
- 13.*The Welsh Triangle*. P.Paget.Granada.1979.

to be a key.

.....

Date:- 8 July 1994.

Location:- Allerthorpe, North Yorkshire.

A man driving on the A1079 from York witnessed a light in the sky which swooped down from above and resolved into a cottage loaf shaped object. It then climbed upwards and disappeared. This was at 8.10 pm on a sunny evening. Low level military aircraft practice in this area.

.....

Date:- 27 July 1994.

Location:-Peasdon St John, Avon.

Credit: Sue Hembury-Kellow, SUFORIN.

Police called SUFORIN to investigate this incident as it unfolded. A married couple were in the area near Bath when a massive spherical object appeared. It was said to be the size of several houses and was studded in red and green lights. There was no sound but as it appeared to descend towards them the couple fled fearing that it would swallow them up. Investigation revealed no other witnesses but also no known air traffic.

.....

Date:- 5 August 1994.

Location:- Exeter, Devon.

Credit:- Doug Cooper.

A man observed an object shaped like a spinning top which slowly moved away to the west.

.....

Date:- 21 August 1994.

Location:-Bellingham, Northumberland.

Sightings Update

by Jenny Randles

Here are a few of the cases that have been reported from Britain since the last edition of this publication. In future we hope to be more selective, focusing on the more probative cases only (including IFOs that teach useful lessons) and to include cases from across Europe. Could any UFOlogist wishing to summarise their data send this to :-

Sightings Update 11 Pike Court Fleetwood Lancashire FY7 8QF

Date:-25 June 1994.

Location:- Bridgewater, Somerset.

Credit: Sue Hembury-Kellow, SUFORIN.

Multiple witnesses observed a tube shaped object this evening above a housing estate on the edge of town. This gradually tilted to reveal that it had a

disc-like form. It hovered for some time. One month to the day later a silver egg shaped object was witnessed above the same location. Investigation revealed no aircraft, helicopters or airships in the area.

.....

Date:-3 July 1994.

Location:- Southend,Essex.

A woman observed an object shaped like a tear drop and coloured grey/black. She was convinced that it was some kind of machine and has since taken a camcorder with her hoping to film a return visit. To date she has had no luck; although Southend is one of the most active UFO hotspots in Britain. The local MP has asked questions in parliament. However, the presence of much light plane traffic from a local airport is thought by some

At about midnight all the alarm systems on a residential home in this town suddenly went off. The terrified owner rushed outside fearing a break-in but was confronted by an even more baffling mystery. Overhead was a dazzling light beside an adjacent golf course. It was emitting blasts of wind like a helicopter beating its wings. The man was hit by these waves of air pressure every second or so but the object was completely silent. There were no helicopters traced in the area. The witness attempted to photograph the object but it is not known if the picture came out.

.....

Date:- 8 September 1994.
Location:- Murdishaw, Cheshire
Credit:- NARO.

Many years ago the infamous "hummadruzz" (a puzzling nocturnal humming/buzzing/droning sound heard the world over) hit Hough Green near Widnes at about the time Paul Simon (of Simon & Garfunkle) composed a famous hit tune on the local railway station (sadly it was not "The sound of silence" - but "Homeward Bound"!) Now the sound is back, on the opposite side of the Mersey estuary at this same point. Several witnesses reported the weird buzzing growl, as it was described, at about 9 pm. A few also claimed to see a light above the river at the time.

.....

Date:- 8 September 1994.
Location:- Matlock, Derbyshire

Local police were plagued by reports of an explosion in the sky accompanied by a bright

light shooting across the heavens. They concluded that it was a meteor, and this may also account for the Runcorn sightings which appear contemporary. However, witnesses at the Derby Road area of Nottingham say they saw the phenomenon more clearly and it was a white cross of lights which hovered for a few moments and then sped off. This is not consistent with a meteor.

.....

Date:- 8 September 1994.
Location:- Taunton, Somerset.

Yet another account for this same date, but earlier at 3.15 am. Several witnesses reported a hovering object shaped like a giant bowl. It was surrounded by a ring of lights. This emitted a humming, droning noise, again cementing the link with the Runcorn affair 18 hours later. Local police promised to send out an officer, but nobody arrived, so the witnesses visited the station the next day and filed an official report for the MoD. Police claimed to have solved the case, saying it was a balloon. This appears unlikely, particularly given the other encounters that day.

.....

Date:- 13 September 1994.
Location:- Chelmsford, Essex.

And still this buzzing UFO would not go away! A high pitched whining awoke residents of Chestnut Walk at 2.30 am who could find no source for the sound and called the police. This time they came, but the noise had vanished. However, some locals claim to have seen a red flash in the sky. At 4.30 am Essex police were called by a couple in

Colchester who reported an enormous cigar shape drifting overhead. It moved very slowly and had semi circles on top and red, yellow and orange flashing lights on the base. A local dog, reputed to "bark at anything", was found by its owner staring into space watching the object in silence and apparent awe!

.....

Date:- 18 September 1994.
Location:- Burton Pidsea, Humberside.
Credit: Zena Williams

A teenage girl was driving to the local pub when an orange ball of light drifted across the road ahead. A flashing beacon light was on its top. It then vanished suddenly. When she entered the pub shaking visibly nobody believed her. This account sounds rather like an airship.

.....

(continued from page 16).

stands by an abandoned iron mine which has been abandoned since 1967. Here was a Magnetite mine whose ore is highly magnetic. We ask ourselves was this a metal object that Kirstin saw? Or was it an electrical discharge of some kind. One point which does not support this theory is that on the 28th December 1987 a similar sphere was reported from the town of Grangesberg. It was described as a blue sparkling object 6 x 8 metres which flew over and between houses at 12.00.

The research was done by Berit Bergqvist and Birgit Salgstrom for UFO Sweden.

The House On The Moors

*An investigation into a window
area contact case. (Part Two).*

by Jenny Randles

Jenny Randles is an established writer, broadcaster and expert on UFOs and the paranormal. She has written and presented programmes for BBC television and radio, and regularly lectures around the world. Her work has included briefing senior British politicians at Westminster on UFOs. Jenny Randles is the author of over 20 books and lives in Stockport, Cheshire.

The encounters begin

Elsie moved into her present house in 1959. It is an isolated and fairly desolate looking millstone cottage well up the side of a hill some distance outside of Todmorden itself. I cannot be more specific so as not to identify the witness. At the time she had two young children, both aged under two years old. One winters night at around 2 am, within six months

of moving to the house a terrific pulsating noise filled the air. It was similar to a vacuum cleaner but had a more intense and frequent pulsation to it. The entire family were wakened by it and it terrified her husband, who kept saying that it would land on the roof. The noise persisted for several seconds and then stopped.

Getting out and peering through the curtains both she and her husband could see a brilliant glow at the top of the hill on a field that sloped up towards a new pylon. This was not yet operational, indeed the company involved were plugged into their electricity supply as nothing else was working up there. The circular glow lit up the side of the house, even though it was now making no sound. It appeared to be immediately beside the mast. After a few more seconds it simply disappeared.

Their first impression was that it might have been a helicopter working on the mast but this was rapidly dismissed. Her brother worked for the company and could verify that no flights operated. In any event it seems highly improbable that they would operate in the dark on the tops of these moors, plus, of course, no helicopter could become silent as this object did.

The alien contact

Many other things occurred in the 20 years between this incident and her most frightening experience. A few of these will be mentioned later. However, it was the alien contact that really made Elsie terrified about the lonely prominence of her homestead.

It was again about 3 am on a night in May 1979 when she was awoken by a huge light moving silently down the moors and heading straight for the house. She felt certain that it would hit the gable end and rose from bed in panic to escape. She did not awaken her husband, who saw nothing. Her children, apart from one adult son, had by now moved out of the house.



Roy Sandbach

However, within moments of leaping from the bedclothes Elsie now found herself out in the open. There was no memory of running down the stairs or opening the door. She was just out there on the rough grass at the side of her home, still wearing her nightie. Moreover, she was not alone.

The huge oval of light had apparently landed close to the house on the sloping fields. It was a small egg shaped device, barely visible behind the glow. Yet, paradoxically, her mind kept insisting that it was a helicopter

Logically, afterwards, and probably at the time, she knew this was ridiculous. Yet the thought somehow comforted her. Then three figures, seen mostly in silhouette, emerged from the front of the object and began to walk towards Elsie. They were slightly under normal human height and slim in build. Rather extraordinarily she concluded that these were her daughter and children coming for a visit from a nearby village and her mind began to plan making them a cup of tea. She knew even at the time that this interpretation was absurd. Her daughter was not small and slight, obviously would not visit in a helicopter and certainly not in the middle of the night. However, these factors were overturned by her subconscious mind which just accepted them.

At this point the scene changed again and Elsie was now back in bed, blinking in the sunlight and it was after dawn. At least an hour had disappeared.

At breakfast her son ran into the house rather distressed and led his mother to the chicken

coup. Here nine of the animals were found to be dead, with no sign of attack, eg. from a fox. They were quite close to the pylon (ie 100 feet or so) and Elsie concluded that they had been electrocuted by this, even though that had never happened before or since. She refused to bring in a vet and even talked herself out of linking the incident with the UFO encounter. At the interview she said several times, "surely this was just a coincidence. It doesn't mean anything, does it?"

I asked Elsie very carefully about the nature of this encounter and what she finally admitted was very interesting. Although she believes it was a real event there are clear signs that it was a vivid dream or hallucination. Not only do the scene jumps fit that scenario but when questioned very closely she referred to the fact that she could see the UFO in a specific location which our on site reconstruction indicated was not possible. Trees were in the way. As our visit was in late winter we could see the spot through the denuded branches, but her encounter was in May and the trees would have been in full leaf.

Elsie was certain of the date when the incident occurred, because of several family factors that could be (and were) checked. Finally she acknowledged that she had seen the trees not in bloom when they ought to have been. This led to the further realisation that she had been able to "see around the corner of the house" which was physically impossible from her location.

So, her seemingly real alien

encounter was apparently visionary in nature. Does that mean that this was all simply a dream? Or, was it stimulated by an electrical phenomenon that seems to have appeared as the light? Certainly we can see how the mind reacted abnormally during the episode and this may be a clue to the altered state of consciousness which Elsie was in at the time. There seems little doubt that without close scrutiny most researchers would have accepted the witnesses initial view - which, in fact, she still clings to, that her experience was objectively real. How many other alien contacts mask similarly visionary clues that have to be excavated out of the data years after the fact?

Other adventures

Elsie's husband died in 1990 but she has communed with him often since. Even more interesting is that her son, who left home in the mid eighties, returns as an auditory hallucination - that is she hears him arrive on his motorbike in a kind of action replay. This might suggest to those psychologically minded that this is simply a lonely old lady who is gifted with her imagination. But having met her I am not convinced that is all there is to this case. She holds down a good job and comes over to most people as utterly rational and objective. Few would guess that she shares her life on a near daily basis with phantoms of one sort or another.

Possibly the most interesting aspect of her frequent psychic experiences is that she hears sounds directly from objects, a form of psychometry it seems.



Roy Sandbach

For example, when touching a vacuum cleaner she believes that she tunes into conversations made by the people in the factory that built it, the shop that sold it, etc. She has also regularly heard brief conversations replayed as if through a tape recorder and which emerge from the room itself. It transpires that the house is over 100 years old and some of the conversations overheard make sense in the light of previous owners, that is they may conceivably have been real sentences spoken at one point back in time. During the 1960's the family used to get enormous electricity bills and the company had to come in to investigate. They failed to find any explanation, but downgraded the meter to compensate. I have been trying to verify this with the authorities but am not getting much cooperation. I also have to play it carefully to protect the woman's identity as promised.

Another problem has been

overloading of washers, vacuum cleaners, etc, which on occasions seem to have sucked power from the room and blown their circuits. This was a major problem at times and appears to go through phases of activity and is then quiet for months or years. It is also a very localised problem. She can take a sweeper into the next room and it will work fine, but will overheat in the main living area.

Her dog also responded to the replays and has often been woken from sleep by the conversations or the presence of a ghost kitten that sits on Elsie's lap from time to time. He now seems to have accepted it and goes straight back to sleep. Of this Elsie says that she is simply a Satellite dish tuning into the past.

There is much more to her psychic encounters than briefly reviewed here, and a few other minor UFO sightings - of glowing lights on the hill. But

everyone in the area has seen these!

Conclusions

Elsie herself believes that she lives at a focal point of "ley lines" (sic) and that she is an untrained medium who simply picks up stray impressions and has not learnt to control these. She has attempted to get help to turn her talents into some good use to aid the bereaved, but has not find someone unwilling to exploit her and who would merely guide her through what she needs to learn. I think that this case potentially relates to the presence of an electrical or energy field that is channelled through this building. The old stone out of which housing in this area is built is rich in quartz within the grit and this may well be significant. It could explain why the area is so full of encounters - with the local building stone focusing the energy and producing the lights in the sky.

Parapsychologists have a theory that stone can record sounds and impressions from the past if it contains certain crystalline structures. These are thought to be responsible for some "timeslip" cases on file. I discuss such work in my book "Time Travel" (published by Cassell, July 1994). Of course, if that theory is correct then there is no reason why time should be a one-way street. After all, premonitions are an accepted part of psychic lore. If visions of the future are possible, eg in dreams, and if replays of past events may occur in the sense of timeslips when channelled through crystal structures in local stone, then perhaps preview visions of the future may also be created in the same way. Are some of the local UFO encounters visions of aerial vehicles from our own future?

A shot in the dark, or wild theory, no doubt. I present it merely as an speculation. What I do think is clear from a case such as this is that we are dealing with a special combination of circumstances - the right person, in the right place at the right time. The result of that equation is a close encounter - or time slip - or psychic experience.

To understand what is going on here requires us to unlock a number of things - what makes a witness special (probably connected with their ability to enter the correct state of consciousness), what produces a window area (from geophysical and other data), the specific nature of the energy or energies that are involved at this location and what features of the window channel these forces into sharp

focus at precise positions within the window. Here, I suggest, the house itself may provide the key.

I do not think we will find any aliens behind Elsie's close encounters, but we may unravel something ultimately far more significant and useful. That, for me, is the excitement behind the current drive to seek out the forces behind some aspects of the UFO phenomenon and why window area research is so important.

Calendar

8th December 1994.

Carlos Alvarado on spontaneous phenomena.

Lecture Hall, Kensington Central Library, London.

Lecture starts at 6.35 pm.
Society for Psychical Research (SPR).

27/30th April 1994.

San Francisco, USA.

Treat (Treatment and Research of Experienced Anomalous Trauma) - ie abductions, et al - stage their seventh annual conference with the theme 'Consciousness at the edge'.

The main speaker will be Dr Karl Pribram with a catalogue of PhD's backing him up. This is a deeply scientific conference; although papers are invited from anyone. All four days plus four nights bed & breakfast comes to \$691. Contact TREAT World Headquarters, 615 Broadway,

Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706. USA.

(continued from page 20).
weekend.

On New Years eve Kirstin discovered a long burn mark on the jumper she had been wearing that night. On the 31st December UFO SVERIGE collected the jumper and found a 5cm long scorch mark on the right side, the stitching being burned together. We also had the health authority test for radioactivity but none was found.

We then left the jumper to a laboratory to test the scorch mark and Mr Arne Groth said that after being enlarged 40 times that it was not a burn mark at all but it was fibres from another material that had melted onto the jumper.

Kirstin had a headache for four days after the event and the tingling tingling tingling sensation continued the whole summer, but has now become an aggravating itch.

Eventually a witness was traced, this man had been driving from the town of Falun to Sater on the evening of the 31st December and actually noticed a blue spherical shape over Bisberg. He stopped his car and observed the sphere for about 10 minutes he thought at first that it was an aeroplane but soon realised that it was something unusual. When he arrived at Sater at 01.30am the blue light was still apparent over Bisberg.

Kirstin and Rolfs house stands

(continued on page 12).

UFO Cover Up

by Neil Nixon

Neil Nixon has been interested in UFOs for as long as he can remember. He has been a freelance writer and journalist since 1981 producing a wide range of material from scripts for BBC Radio to stand up comedy. He also works full-time as a manager/lecturer in Media Studies in an FE college.

A common belief in this country states that our own government is involved in a cover up of UFO information and the media is gagged on the whole issue. I would like to say immediately that I don't know whether or not there is any final truth in this. However, I do know that there are other explanations for much of the evidence of media gagging. One argument that has not been advanced to explain the media gagging is that of market forces.

In the eyes of the media UFOs are a theme or issue. They are there to be exploited. There are controls, legal and implicit, on this exploitation. UFO coverage is unusual but the odd pattern that we witness does not prove that there is covert manipulation of information.

The most common argument amongst UFO proponents is that extensive factual coverage based on hard evidence is

lacking in the mass media. If the 'Quality' end of the media were prepared to deal seriously with the subject then it is certain that many of the general public would have their minds opened to one of the greatest mysteries of the present day. This much is true.

There are reasons for the lack of coverage in the broadsheet papers and major TV documentaries. In the case of the broadsheets it is down to advertising. These papers depend for their existence on a steady income from adverts. Their job in return is to deliver a loyal and well-paid readership who are reasonably likely to spend money on products or apply for advertised jobs. In the case of major TV documentaries both terrestrial channels are legally constrained by the vague boundaries of the 'Quality' obligations placed on them by government. The broadsheet papers and major TV channels both give low priority to UFOs because the subject is seen as low in credibility.

Whilst this situation continues the greatest press and TV UFO coverage comes in areas not so constrained. The tabloids lead on UFO and paranormal stories occasionally and the subject crops up on the kind of TV programmes that require a steady through put of people and ideas. Local news, short run magazine programmes in the early hours of the morning etc. There is a 'Catch 22' situation that develops as a result in which the subject is seen as having little credibility because it is consigned to these margins and therefore the 'Serious' investigation that would put the resources of a

major news gathering team onto the subject hardly ever comes. 1994 has seen some movement in this area, mentioned later, but this has been a long time coming.

B Sky b has made three news features programmes. The satellite channel is not constrained by the same legislation as the terrestrial networks. However, it is short of cash and desperate to hit hard core minority audiences in the hope of persuading them to buy satellite receivers.

The credibility problem is central to all factual UFO coverage. The general rule of thumb is that where a company or editor has the responsibility for a UFO related product punches are pulled. Where the content of the UFO related product is seen as the work of an individual this is not the case. The result of this is that general features tend to focus on an individual account and leave it unresolved. Issues and arguments do not get aired in this context and this situation again feeds into the Catch 22 associated with credibility.

Market forces are an issue in all the examples quoted so far because TV companies, magazine publishers etc. rely on their profile and image in the eyes of their audience for continued success in the market.

When we get beyond this problem we find the least restrained UFO coverage. Book publishing has probably provided the greatest advancement in understanding of the UFO phenomena amongst the general public in recent years. The UK market

supports two regular authors, (Timothy Good and Jenny Randles), on this subject and provides a handful of others with an income. The freedom of expression in the book market goes a long way towards undermining the arguments of the conspiracy theorists who see covert control being exercised over all UFO information. Recent UFO books in the UK have openly discussed government involvement in the UFO situation and put forward a range of other ideas.

As books are usually the legal responsibility of the author the major control exercised on the publisher is that of market forces. The British market cannot be seen in isolation in this respect. Almost half of the UFO titles launched on the UK market over the last two years were originally US publications. There are good economic reasons for this as publishers aim to make maximum sales out of an initial investment in an author and title. Like all areas of the mass media book publishing is an international concern.

There is a real irony in this last point. With market forces controlling the titles that sell in the UFO book market it is not surprising that the greatest sales are achieved by the books that make claims about nuts and bolts spacecraft, captured aliens and government controls on information. These arguments are simple, exciting and suggestive of some monumental truth that may unfold at any moment. However the sheer amount of 'Leaked' information and the contradictory nature of some of the leaks lends a comic

aspect to claims of secret cover ups and death threats to those divulging anything sensitive.

There are other books of course. Researchers like Paul Devereux have made discoveries that are pushing back the barriers of our outstanding of the UFO phenomena. But, books about earthlights or the psychological aspects of the UFO debate are less accessible and less popular than the direct 'Nuts and Bolts' tomes.

So far, we have seen that there are two main reasons for a belief in this country in an out and out cover up of UFO information. The odd status of UFOs as a subject gives them a credibility problem that has proven to be insurmountable. The heavy presence in the British UFO market of a number of U.S. items has further fuelled the cover up belief. The notion of conspiracy and cover up is much further advanced in the USA.

Martin Kottmeyer has documented the role of paranoia in the development of UFO belief systems. It must be said that his work is inconclusive at present but he has managed to show that a significant number of those who have reported and interpreted UFO events also displayed classic signs of paranoia.

The real casualty in the present situation is the truth. The belief amongst some members of the UFO community in covert cover ups of all information with threats directed at media persons who break the unwritten code is a self-serving myth. The myth persists because it is simple to

understand and it gives status to UFO believers who see themselves in battle with the major powers of government and media to unearth the truth. It also provides a convenient explanation for why decades of UFO research hasn't yet delivered a solid craft that the British public can see on display.

This situation bothers me because changing it could gain us so much. The massive success of entertainment items based on UFOs shows that the general public are aware of the phenomenon and interested. 'E.T.' is finally under threat as the most successful movie of all time. This film, several TV series and a handful of other products have done huge business in this country.

The really ludicrous side of the 'Cover up' myth is evident when we look at the number of fictional or entertaining outlets there are for the UFO theme. Rock music, film, television, science fiction... do I need to go on. I've heard people discussing cover ups and talking in reverential tones about the bravery of those willing to take the UFO message to people in the face of such gagging. The belief system goes on to suggest that these people are risking life, limb and careers in doing so.

I do realise that there are researchers out there who make genuine sacrifices and do face problems as a direct result of their work. But I don't see this as a universal pattern. The sinister authorities are not out to gag everyone who thinks 'UFO' and by the same token many of the people who take the message to the masses do

so without interference. Many of these people are as interested in making money as spreading the UFO word and I'm struggling to see them all as a brave underground army involved in desperate campaign to force out the truth.

Let's stop and think for a minute. What is the most successful British made non-fiction UFO product? Do I hear any votes for Tim Good's 'Above Top Secret'? Nice try Tim, still available seven years on - good for a UFO tome but in terms of units sold all the books have been trashed by one item. 'No Doubt About It', by Hot Chocolate. Number 2 in 1980 and only held off the top by the combined might of Johnny Logan's 'What's Another Year' and The Theme From M*A*S*H*, thirtieth best selling single of the year into the bargain. A song based on a real encounter. Hot Chocolate, useful pop band but can we honestly see them as fearless warriors in the battle for UFO truth?

Maybe I've been too light hearted here but there is a serious point and I think I've made it now. UFOs are a marketable property and there is ample evidence to suggest their marketability is the main issue behind their current media profile.

This article is timely because in late 1994 the situation is finally changing. By the time you read this there should have been an upsurge of UFO television coverage. 'Network First', 'Equinox', 'Horizon', 'Weird Television' and 'Strange But True' should all have touched on UFOs.. My only involvement has been with

'Weird Television' so I can't really speak for the others but the point is that after years of very little coverage we have a UFO 'Wave' on our screens.

I'm sure that this will lead to another belief system amongst conspiracy theorists. Let me be the first to predict that we will soon have a story circulating that involves John Major and Michael Grade sitting in on a private screening of some documentary. Major will turn to Grade and say, 'You know, we're the only two in the room who know how much of this is true'. I heard variations on that story often enough about Steven Spielberg and Ronald Reagan so it's a good bet that something similar might surface in the U.K soon assuming UFO coverage stays at a higher level than in the past.

If the public will buy hundreds of thousands of Hot Chocolate singles and millions of tickets to 'E.T' then they have already bought into the general idea that UFOs exist, this shows a level of awareness that can also be exploited for lesser gains by non-fictional material. It is possible to turn such an interest in ideas into a hunger for factual information that brings about real changes in media coverage and information available. The environmental lobby provides the best example of this. In the sixties they had the same social profile as UFO believers. Much of the positive environmental coverage came in a roundabout way via fictional material, I'd go as far as to include films like 'Born Free' here. Many people had a general interest in the issues and ideas but it took those actively involved in

environmental issues to get organised and provide a focus for a movement that then grew in strength. Their present impact in all areas of life is a tribute to this work.

This whole 'Conspiracy' issue actually impedes UFO coverage because it does make those in the position to supply information to the media suspicious of the people asking for the information. This is a waste when there is clear evidence of some public interest and a growing willingness on the part of the media to deal with the subject. I know UFOlogists have had bad experiences with programmes but then so have experts in almost every field and the reason is not a wish to do us down, it is market forces. The only way we're going to change it is to get in and mix it long enough to convince those making programmes that there are better ways of doing the job than making a few jokes about 'E.T.'

Most people with an interest in UFOs seem to share a common goal. A desire for the truth. If we break the vicious circle we've created for ourselves we'll improve our chances of getting it.

Dispensing with the paranoid belief that sees cover up and manipulation in everything would be a good place to start. This belief is part of the problem. It reduces the subject in the eyes of the media controllers to a fringe belief and it is treated accordingly. They used to treat environmental issues in this way. But in only a few years 'Steve Wright in the Afternoon'

carried regular environmental news. A definite victory for organised and well argued pressure.

If UFO proponents were better organised and, dare I say it ?, more media friendly there is a good chance that the vast research resources of the media would join the largely amateur efforts of UFOlogists to dig up the answers we all want.

Oddly enough if this situation ever does arrive everyone, up to and including the conspiracy theorists, stands to gain. we may have to surrender something in the way of controlling investigations but in return we may find that journalists can get some of the answers we have wanted for years. We may even find out just how much of a UFO cover-up there is out there.

European Network

It is with great pleasure that I speak to you from Stockholm, Sweden, through the pages of the "New UFOlogist". My name is Tony Walter, I am a musician, entertainer, businessman and I have been involved with UFOs for about 35 years. I am also a member of the Swedish UFO Society "UFO SVERIGE" in English "UFO SWEDEN". The society publishes an excellent magazine four times a year under the direction of Mr. Clas Svahn, a professional newspaper reporter and author. It is with his kind permission that I delve into the archives of "UFO SVERIGE" and bring you our first case study.

WOMEN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING BOLT FROM UFO

The sighting took place in the town of Bispberg which is south of Dalarna, on the night before New Years Eve December 1987. The couple in question choose to remain anomalous so we shall call them Kirstin and Rolf, Kirstin is 59 years old and is a retired Nurse.

Rolf and Kirstin were awakened by their cat and dog who seemed to be in a very nervous state. The time was 0100 am they let the pet's out but they soon came back in again and the pets continued to be unsettled and nervous, so they let them out again. This continued until 3am, so Kirstin and Rolf decided to get dressed and see what was going on. They looked through the bedroom window and to their dismay their dog was standing perfectly still with its tail between its legs and opening and closing its mouth. Kirstin thought that it had caught sight of a hare or some other animal so she went out onto the backyard steps which face south. The time was then 3.30am, as she opened the door she saw at once a spherical shaped object in the sky.

It was a metallic ice blue colour with an aure of grey and orange mist surrounding it. Underneath the object was an opening where lightning bolts shot out like long arrows. The bolts appeared to shoot out and then return again into the sphere, Kirstin guessed the size of the object to be around 6 x 8 metres at a distance of 150 metres and approximately 10 - 15 metres above the ground.

When she stepped out onto the steps she became paralysed and was unable to call her husband, her jaw was completely locked. She had goose pimples all over her body. Worst of all she felt as if something had sucked onto her forehead over her left eye it hurt her terribly, she thought that she was going to die. After 5 minutes or so the object vanished, perhaps to the side or down, only then was she able to move, and turn around as she done this she felt a stinging sensation on her right shoulder blade. During this time Rolf, who had dressed himself, once more lay on the bed he heard a whirling noise like a car ticking over and thought it was the house heating system which sometimes gave them problems. so he did not get up he did however feel a change in the air pressure. He noticed later that his watch had stopped it was 3.35am. When Kirstin came in again, both her and the animals smelted of sulphur. Rolf looked at her back where it hurt but saw nothing. Her skin was still goose pimply and her jaw was stiff for a long time afterwards.

At 04.00am Rolf went out for the customarily walk with the dog and he noticed it smelt strongly of creosote. The dog nosed strangely around and seemed to curl up on its self, none of he neighbours seemed to be awake.

More Witnesses

We knocked on doors in Bispberg but no one had seen anything out of the ordinary. Those that were home were sleeping but many of the houses were empty because the neighbours were away for the

(continued on Page 16).

Reviews

Book Review

ALLERGIES AND ALIENS

The Visitation Experience : An Environmental Health Issue
by Albert Budden

It is not often that something new can be said about the highly controversial topic of alleged encounters with aliens. However, this book - which serves as an appetiser for UFOs - **THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC INDICTMENT** (Cassell/Blandford, 1995) - breaks new ground by developing a radical new perspective on the subject. In his introduction Albert Budden boldly states that

"...the experiences of visitation by a variety of other-worldly beings, which have been documented and researched by so many over the past decades, are the mental and physiological products of a range of environmental illnesses, shared by and coped with in their commonest form, by about 20 % of the population".

By treating the alien contact claim as merely the symptom of an illness Albert Budden is sure to quickly attract the usual contempt reserved for UFOlogists who fail to promote the popular misconception of UFOlogy. Yet here is a sensible, falsifiable theory which should be examined closely by UFOlogists all over the world !

Allergies and Aliens makes what appears to be a strong case for re-interpreting

outrageous contact claims with new eyes. In what could be a ground breaking piece of work Budden draws heavily on the developing science of environmental health to propose that many close encounter witnesses are electrically hypersensitive to the saturation of our environment with electronic pollution. Using numerous well-researched case studies Budden demonstrates that many close encounter experiences appear to occur in the proximity of radio transmitting masts, pylons, underground cables and other sources of electromagnetic pollution (e.g. RF "hot spots").

Drawing on recent experimental work at Breakspear Hospital in Hertfordshire, Budden claims that electrically hypersensitive individuals develop a range of acute allergies which reduce the ability of the body to cope with ordinary stresses. In order to protect the body the subconscious mind generates a suitable hallucination to warn the conscious mind of danger. This is similar to the concept of the "producer" in Hilary Evans' "Visions, Apparitions, Alien Visitors" (Aquarian Press, 1984).

In Budden's perspective the rapid increase in electromagnetic radiation over the past few decades accounts for the rise in reported close encounter cases. Because electronic pollution is a new form of pollution it is perceived by the body to be alien to its normal environment, thus the body's response is to generate a hallucination with alien or other-worldly symbology. What a super idea !

Allergies and Aliens contains a rich variety of diverse case work. There are all kinds of "paranormal" events, including poltergeist cases and UFO abductions, bedroom visitors, even sightings of a dinosaur in Reading ! Budden goes on to examine a range of unusual medical conditions that are known to be triggered by exposure to intense electrical fields. Throughout Allergies and Aliens readers are introduced to a whole new language - exploding head syndrome, body image, electrosleep, kindling phenomenon, and hyperaesthesia, to name but a few.

The text will be of particular interest to those UFOlogists who accept that close encounter cases are purely subjective altered states of consciousness which are triggered by unusual external stimuli. There are brief references to Persinger's temporal lobe experiments and Devereux's earth-lights theory, along with links to serious medical conditions such as cancer, MS and ME. Budden's synopsis is strengthened with numerous references to a recent World Health Organisation report into the reported harmful effects of electromagnetic pollution on the world's urbanised populations.

By venturing into a new area of research Budden claims that his hypothesis can even account for the "missing time" phenomenon so beloved of abduction researchers. This is where one begins to wonder how far one can take these concepts. In the Aveley case (page 44) Budden suggests that three members of the family were suspended in a trance-

were suspended in a trance-like state for 3 hours having driven into a fog caused by the electrification of ground mist by the presence of nearby electricity pylons. Budden suggests that this green fog also caused the family's car to stall. Why third parties never chance across cars stalled inside green mists with the passengers all staring into the sky in a trance-like state for three hours, is not explained.

One problem with the book is that it is home produced. As a consequence it suffers from some interesting spelling mistakes and awkward grammar. However, this should not detract from what is a brave attempt to tackle phenomena which have been ignored by science for too long. All this just wets my appetite for when The Electromagnetic Indictment appears next spring.

Allergies and Aliens can be obtained from Discovery Times Press, 270 Sandycombe Road, Kew, Surrey. TW9 3NP. Price £5.00 (incl. p&p).

Paul Fuller.

UFO Boxed Set - Video Review.

The three titles in this boxed set cover most of the celebrated bed-rock cases of UFOlogy. Two of the three tapes on offer 'UFO's The Evidence' and 'Visitors From Space' are wide ranging documentaries dealing with the history and major cases of the subject. There is some overlap to the point that the same faces turn up in both tapes on occasion. Both tapes are also long on reporting claims of live aliens and nuts and bolts

craft and shorter on hard headed analysis of other possibilities. That said they fill a gaping hole in the UK market and do offer the chance to see some much discussed and seldom aired pictures including some of George Adamski's controversial footage. 'Visitors From Space' shades it for me as the more interesting of the two because it's Finnish origins allow it to report on cases and witnesses seldom discussed in the UK.

The third item in the boxed set is 'UFO Secrets of The Third Reich'. An interesting and well illustrated run through an area rich in conspiracy theories and bizarre stories. The tape follows the main thrust of the Nazi/occult argument to it's end making suggestions that have given problems to the most credulous of UFO believers. Links between Nazi's and aliens who then combine to repel the US military in Antarctica, for example. However, this tape is still highly recommended to any open minded New UFOlogist reader for two reasons.

Firstly it provides a clear and concise run through one of the most complex areas of UFO conspiracy belief and it will save you a fortune on overpriced books and several hours of reading time into the bargain. Secondly, the video is strong on films and photographs of largely unknown aircraft of the second world war. It provides a stunning insight into the lengths to which the Nazis were able to go in developing this branch of their war machine. From a UFOlogists point of view it provides glimpses of the reality behind some of the strange reports of

this period. Removed so far in time from the events described in this tape there is almost a poignancy about the way that former staff in these experimental programmes, including the pilots, describe their work and their machines.

Labyrinth Video are to be applauded for their work in putting UFO tapes into the high street. Whilst the UFO purist may find much to argue about in these three titles there is still much to recommend them. To the beginner they provide an entertaining crash course in the main events of UFO history. To the serious student of UFOlogy they provide a chance to own some vital footage.

Labyrinth Video Boxed set costs £29.99 and is available mail order from Murlyn mail order: Tel- 01279 635377.

Starbase Four

Bulletin Board

For the latest in UFO News, NASA News, status reports, software, images, and much more.

Tel: 01691 671900

Comms set
to 8-N-1.

Right To Reply

To The Editor.

Part of a letter dated July 4th, 1994 from Philip Klass.

"Reference to your article on Crop Circles, let me emphasise that the following is NOT (repeat NOT) intended as a defense [sic !!] of British Skeptics' views, actions or non-actions on crop circles for I am not that familiar with same.

However, I must challenge your statement "... our own Legal Profession is based on accepting the validity of eye witness testimony." First off, in the U.S. (and I believe British) courts, all witnesses are obliged to swear that their testimony is true, to the best of their knowledge. If ALL persons were truthful 99.99 % of the time, there would be no need for witnesses to take such an oath. [Do you know of anyone who would claim that they have never in their life told a falsehood - even a "white-lie" ??]

Second, American (and I believe British) Legal Profession is based "on accepting the validity of own witnesses and challenging the accuracy/veracity of opposing witnesses."

My late father was a lawyer and I recall attending a trial involving an auto accident in which the Plaintiff's two witnesses testified that the dependant was driving between

50 and 60 mph., while the two defendant's witnesses testified he was driving only 10 to 15 mph. As a young child I was perplexed and afterwards sought an explanation from my father. He replied: "All we can be sure of is that the defendant was driving at a speed of 10 to 60 mph."

Of course, this was not really what I was saying - ie a Skeptic had forbidden me to even consider the testimony, not to weigh up the pros and cons of that testimony.

Science Writer .
Steuart Campbell, BA(Open)
DipArch(Birm).
Edinburgh.Scotland,
21st September 1994.

To The Editor.

Jenny Randles has questioned my explanation for the Alan Godfrey UFO report (she has done the same in a rambling "review" of my book in The Skeptic). She exclaims that I have the witness driving "in exactly the opposite direction down Burnley Road, Todmorden, to that in which he himself has said that he was moving", and she recalls a debate in BUFORA's magazine "at the time". In particular she is surprised that I have not referred to this dispute about direction.

My full explanation for the report appeared in The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena (Vol. 5/No. 1) in September 1987. I drew attention to the fact that the witness was certain that he did not turn his police car around after seeing the UFO and subsequently driving back into Todmorden. I noted that the investigation by

MUFORA did not resolve the conflict between Godfrey's statement that he was travelling NW and his subsequent conviction that he did not turn the car around.

In the next issue of JTAP Jenny ranted against my article and described my views as "total garbage", "totally false", "disgracefully inept" and "ridiculous". I was accused of "totally altering the facts of the case" and she described my reasons for doing so as "staggering and ludicrous" and evidence of my "profound incompetence" (and soon). She also berated the editors for allowing my article to be published. They defended themselves and supported my case to some extent. Hilary Evans, although he criticised my dogmatism, referred to my "intelligent suggestion".

In the September 1988 issue of JTAP (Vol.5/No3) I responded to Jenny's attack and explained my reasoning in further detail, dealing especially with the fact that Godfrey did not recall turning his car around (a matter ignored by Jenny). It seemed almost certain that Godfrey had been facing Todmorden at the time and that what he saw was a mirage of Venus. I wrote "it is more probable that Godfrey saw a mirage of Venus than that he saw an alien spacecraft (if that is what Randles proposes)". Is she proposing that and has she ever thought of using Occam's Razor?

Because there was no further correspondence I assumed that Jenny accepted my conclusions. In my book I have always referred to alternative explanations (excepting of course the idea that the objects

were "UFOs"). In this case Jenny offered no rational alternative. Why should I draw attention to the fact that she did not (at one time) accept my explanation?

Yours faithfully

Steuart Campbell,

Anthony Bell.
From a letter dated the 17th
July 1994.

To The Editor.

I like your new magazine and would like to comment on aspects of Paul Devereux and Albert Budden's contribution. Paul mentions Kenneth Rings investigations that suggest UFO abductees are often child abuse victims. Can we be sure that in all such cases these abductions have really been abused? If abductions are internal experiences perhaps some of the abuse experiences are internal. If prior trauma triggers abduction experiences we may have cases where Birth Trauma causes both abuses and abduction experiences, for example.

If 'mutes' result from Ball Lightning, a rare but periodic phenomenon why is it that I associate animal mutilations with the limited geographical area of the US Midwest and the restricted temporal window of the Seventies and thereabouts? Wouldn't you expect natural phenomena to spread their effects from the modern era back into history and to be a characteristic of all land masses? Wouldn't it be expected that a body of legend,

stretching in time, would detail the grisly finds over donkey's year's? Ball lightning is not a modern American invention.

*Albert Budden replies to
Anthony Bell's letter:*

Anthony Bell is of course quite correct in saying that ball lightning is not a modern American invention. However, what is a contemporary development is the media/communications networks. We are not looking at animal mutilation cases per se, but reports of them.

The point I am making is that there is a powerful populist mythology at work that can promote the incidence of rare phenomena such as animal mutilation, especially if it has all of the gory and sensationalist aspects of these events. Phenomena that have occurred rarely but consistently are thrown into the public spotlight by sudden exposure and give the impression that there is a sudden upsurge in activity.

Ritualistic child abuse and incest are good examples of this, as are crop circles also. Also, such publicity creates a proliferation of on-going copy-cat events which feed the new mythology so that investigators are confronted with a mixture of "pure" phenomena and those created by human agency.

This was in fact my opening point in the article, the appearance of temporal and geographical concentrations is much more a comment on both of these confounding factors i.e. media publicity, writer/publishers who harness the commercial potential and are

instrumental in starting and maintaining a sensational mythology and human creations of the phenomena. The lack of a "body of legend" around such natural electrothermal interactions is indicative of its true rarity in passed eras, and the absence of global media/publishing networks.

However, there are also modern factors which have actually enhanced the action of such electromagnetic phenomena as ball lightning, as well as introducing novel forms of it.

The proliferation of electronic communication networks has introduced high electromagnetic areas into the countryside where none existed in pre-industrial times. Microwave repeaters, radar installations, military bases, radio-frequency transmitters, and especially pylons due to their vast number and wide range, are all sources of electromagnetism which were not there "donkey years" ago, as Anthony Bell puts it. Such increased electromagnetic presence's in the landscape not only enhance the formation and therefore increase the incidence of ball lightning, but I am convinced, are instrumental in accidentally producing artificial forms of it. That is to say, just as the natural electrical fields of thunderstorms produce ball lightning, so the constantly present fields from the man-made sources mentioned above produce ELECTROFORMS- an artificial form of the natural original. This ties in with the association of unidentified lights in the sky and animal mutilations. Linda Moulton-Howe take note.

Albert Budden. August 1994.

The Skeptical View

Roswell A Case Solved

by Paul Fuller

Paul Fuller is Editor of the Crop Watcher and co-author with Jenny Randles of Crop Circles A Mystery Solved. In his professional capacity Paul is a statistician with local government.

The US General Accounting Office investigation into the Roswell "UFO Crash"

Back in 1980 Charles Berlitz and William Moore first publicised the claim that an alien spaceship crashed in the desert near Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947, and that the United States Air Force covered-up the fact that they had recovered the spaceship along with six alien bodies. Ever since UFOlogy has witnessed an almost unchallenged promotion of this cause celebre by some of its most prominent and visible UFO researchers. The Roswell case has been championed by numerous UFO researchers, dozens of books and articles have been written about the case and now there is even a major TV film about to be launched here in Britain following its release in the USA this summer. It is perhaps likely that to the general public the Roswell UFO crash is the one case which is seen to be representative of UFOlogy and the abilities of its researchers. To many observers the reality or non reality of the much vaunted Roswell case is enough to judge all of UFOlogy. By

promoting such a claim many UFOlogists accepted an enormous responsibility towards the subject to demonstrate the highest levels of objectivity and professionalism. Now those responsibilities are being tested to the full.

During the past few years the crescendo of claim, counter-claim and speculation has reached such a fever pitch that in 1993 a US Congressman - Steven Schiff of New Mexico - challenged the US Department of Defense to reveal what it knew about the event. Dissatisfied with the response he received Congressman Schiff made an official request to the US Government Accounting Office (GAO) to find out whether or not documentary evidence existed which could account for the Roswell claim. His actions immediately attracted widespread publicity, both in the UFOlogical press and in mainstream media sources such as the Washington Post (Jan 14, 1994). UFOlogists were quick to follow Schiff's lead with their promotion of the "Roswell Declaration" - an appeal to the US Government to spill the beans on a cover-up which would make Watergate look like a children's tea party. At the same time Operation Right to Know stepped up their public campaign to end the UFO "cover up" with repeated demonstrations outside the White House.

In a somewhat surprising move the GAO responded by

conducting an audit of US Air Force records to discover what documentary evidence existed about the Roswell event. What the GAO found has already generated further controversy and allegations of a cover-up from dismayed UFOlogists.

Methodology

The GAO began its audit on February 15th 1994. On September 8th Secretary to the Air Force Sheila E. Widnall announced the completion of the study with the release of a 25 page "Memorandum for Correspondents" written by Colonel Richard Weaver. This memorandum was accompanied by a 1,000 page report into the GAO's findings but this article is based entirely on Richard L. Weaver's summary rather than the fuller report. The report "is intended to stand as the final official Air Force response regarding this matter".

For reasons the GAO go into in some depth it was not possible for the GAO to inspect all official archives which might contain references to what happened at Roswell. Instead it was decided at a very early stage to concentrate the search on Air Force records and systems. The consequence of this is that the GAO enquiry was unable to examine US Army archives (eg at the White Sands missile testing range), or the US Atomic Energy Commission (eg if the incident was really a covered up nuclear accident), as the USAF did not have the authority to compel other agencies to review their records and - even if they did - they would not have been able to verify the "completeness" of any records produced by

these other agencies. Of course, the pro Roswell lobby will use this admission to suggest that all records of a genuine UFO event were passed onto other agencies - for example the CIA, who are known to have been intimately interested in the UFO subject as long ago as the 1951 Robertson Panels.

The GAO began their investigation with a review of the existing literature, which the GAO noted was almost exclusively pro Roswell. Even at this stage it was decided not to refute every single claim made in the literature because "many of these claims appear to be hearsay, undocumented, taken out of context, self-serving, or otherwise dubious". The GAO notes with alarm that the pro Roswell claim has multiple variations with primary researchers disagreeing over the location of the site, the date of the event and even the volume of the debris which was "recovered". Throughout their report the GAO claim that the Roswell event was a story which just grew and grew, becoming more dramatic with each re-telling.

An "extensive archival and records center search" was initiated by the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/AAZD). The "reclassification Review Team" had the authority to declassify any classified documents they found in the most highly classified archives of the United States Air Force which related to the Roswell event. These archives were located in the following USAF Departments - the Directorate of Information Management,

the Directorate of Electronics and Special Programmes, Air Force Safety, Air Force Historian, Air Force Intelligence, the Directorate of Weather and even the Air Force Office of Special Investigations - an agency which has been alleged by some UFOlogists to be involved in UFO cover-ups on several occasions. The SAF/AAZD team had had previous experience in searching for records relating to POWs and Missing in Action records relating to the Vietnam conflict.

The GAO appear to have been very concerned to demonstrate that no surviving military witnesses avoided assisting in their investigation for fear of reprisals if they talked about what would undoubtedly have been a classified operation. Several surviving military witnesses were issued with written authorizations which freed them from any previous security oaths which might have restricted discussion of

classified information (presuming that such restrictions existed). During the course of the enquiry the GAO tracked down and interviewed several military witnesses, including Sheridan Cavitt, Lt Col (Retired), who is "the last living member of the three people universally acknowledged to have recovered material from the Foster Ranch". Back in 1947 Cavitt was a Counter Intelligence Corps Officer who was the first to contact the Roswell Army Air Field about the debris - perhaps Cavitt knew more than anyone else about what had really happened at Roswell?

The SAF/AAZD team inspected numerous locations where it was felt that surviving records might exist. These locations included the National Archives in Washington DC, the National Personnel Records Centre in St. Louis, the National Archives and National Records Centre at



Picture 1. Major J.A. Marcel with the balloon wreckage. Picture courtesy of Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Suitland, MD, the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC, the Federal Records Centre in Fort Worth, the INSCOM Archives at Fort Meade (???), the National Air and Space Museum, Washington DC, the Air Force Historical Agency, Maxwell AFB, the Centre for Air Force History at Bolling AFB, Phillips Laboratory, Hanscom AFB and Kirtland AFB, Rome Laboratory, Griffiths AFB and the Library of Congress, Washington DC. The GAO disclaimed an ability to search every single possible box file or film reel, but asserted that the search was made at those locations where such records would most logically be found. Involved the assistance of archivists, historians and records management specialists, including people who had worked continuously in Army and Air Force records since 1943.

Findings

The GAO enquiry concluded that "The Air Force research found absolutely no indication that what happened near Roswell in 1947, involved any type of extraterrestrial craft". However, despite this not unexpected finding it is clear from the official report that the GAO actually agreed with UFOlogists that something odd did indeed occur at Roswell, the only problem was deciding what that something was.

The GAO enquiry claim to have investigated whether or not the Roswell event was an airplane crash, a missile crash, a nuclear accident or an extraterrestrial craft. Presumably the full 1,000 page report will include other possible explanations for the

event. According to the GAO airplane crashes are always scrupulously documented and that (somewhat conveniently) Air Safety records of balloon crashes are kept for only five years. The GAO reports that all USAF offices who were contacted reported that they had no information relating to Special Access Programmes (SAPs) which related to extraterrestrial spacecraft or aliens. Of course, this seems to exclude the possibility that the USAF might hold information which relates to other kinds of UFOs at Roswell that didn't involve ETs.

The GAO report comments at length how peculiar it would be for the US military to conduct a recovery of the most sensational discovery in the history of the world without generating the slightest piece of documentary material. The GAO found no indications of unusual activity, large scale expenditure of manpower or security, or documentation relating to an unusual incident - as might be expected if a real alien spacecraft had been recovered. Instead Colonel Blanchard, who was the commanding officer of the 509th bomb group based at Roswell Army Air base and who probably have been personally involved in this first ever recovery of an alien device, went on leave on July 8th. In addition Lt. General Nathan Twining, the Commander of the Air Materiel Command (where, logically, the "debris" would be sent), went to a pre arranged Bomb Commanders Course on the same day. Twining, if you recall, was the US General who later issued that very peculiar "top secret" briefing note (Sept 23

1947) about how UFOs were "something real and not visionary or fictitious". As Philip Klass points out, if the Roswell object was a real alien spaceship why did Twining fail to report this in his subsequent briefing note ?

Project Mogul

Very early on in the GAO's search the SAF/AAZD team found evidence of balloon testing at Alamogordo AAF and White Sands missile range during June and July 1947. These tests were mentioned in the original July 10th 1947 Alamogordo News, and involved "constant level balloons" which were part of a project involving New York University and Watson Laboratories. A 1946 memorandum also surfaced which described the constant altitude balloon project in more detail. The project was classified as "top secret priority 1A". The project was developed to detect weak vibrations from Soviet nuclear detonations in the upper atmosphere. 1947 was the height of the Cold War so the Soviet border was closed to all foreigners - thus balloon technology was the only feasible way of detecting such tests. The techniques for detecting nuclear tests had been suggested by a Dr Maurice Ewing at Columbia University two years earlier.

The GAO enquiry tracked down three surviving members of Project Mogul - Dr Athelstan F. Spilhaus, the project engineer, Professor Charles B. Moore and Colonel Albert C. Trakowski, the military project officer involved. All three members of the Mogul team

described their activities and the unusual payloads carried by their balloons. According to surviving records some test flights were not logged and, because of the sensitive nature of the project, the equipment was not marked to avoid identification of the project's existence and true purpose. The balloons often carried home-made radar targets constructed out of aluminium foil, foil-backed paper, coated balsa wood, tape, nylon twine and swivels. Some even had purplish pink tape with attractive symbols - a motif which appears repeatedly in much of the key testimony used to support the pro Roswell position.

According to Professor Charles Moore, the neoprene balloons they used degraded quickly in the strong desert sunlight, turning from a milky white to a dark brown which resembled "dark gray, black flakes or ashes" within days. He recalled that the neoprene material also emitted an acrid smell whilst recovered radar targets soon became dispersed by surface winds. Professor Moore positively identified the material in the photograph of General Ramey's infamous press conference as being the shredded remains of a multi-neoprene balloon train (several balloons attached to each other) with multiple radar reflectors. As a demonstration of how exhaustive the GAO enquiry was, members of the SAF/AZD team even managed to obtain a surviving example of a typical balloon assembly used in later tests which closely resembled the 1947 balloon launches. This was shown to be similar to the debris that appeared in the Fort Worth

Star-Telegram photograph that depicted Generals Ramey and Marcel inspecting the debris during the press conference.

It is interesting to note that the GAO enquiry failed to find any direct evidence that the UFO crash story had been an official pre-planned cover story for Project Mogul. The GAO attribute the misleading press release about a "captured flying disk" to an "over-reaction" on the part of Colonel Blanchard and Major Marcel, who unfortunately are now both dead. It has to be said that this does seem rather strange. Could it be that these key actors (along with Sheridan Cavit, perhaps ?) knew precisely what Project Mogul was and they knew that they had to discredit the discovery of the Mogul technology at any cost ? If so, this would suggest that the use of the emotive UFO mythology to cover secret military activities was first applied less than two weeks after Kenneth Arnold's seminal sighting - the sighting which first brought to the attention of the world that "flying saucers" existed.

The GAO are at some pains to point out that many of the more exotic claims about Roswell were made by people who desired anonymity because (allegedly) death threats had been made against those in the know to keep them from talking. As the GAO points out, these alleged threats didn't stop numerous other witnesses from coming forward to confirm the reality of the UFO crash, even though not one person has been shown to have died, disappeared or otherwise suffered due to making pro Roswell statements over the past 47 years. The report notes

wryly that some of these witnesses (eg the notorious Gerald Anderson) were even shown to be fakes by UFO researchers.

Evaluation

The GAO inquiry seems to have been a very thorough and professional inspection of USAF archives. The Project Mogul explanation seems, on the face of it, to go a long way to explaining much of what is claimed to have taken place. Almost all of this extra-ordinary claim relies on memories of events which took place almost fifty years ago, yet with the exception of local press reports (which were subsequently contradicted) the lack of contemporary documentary evidence is alarming. Another problem with the pro Roswell case is that many of the claims seem to have originated from a handful of people who - for some unaccountable reason - mostly didn't come forward until after the Roswell case had achieved national and international publicity following the publication of "The Roswell Incident" in 1980. If a real alien spaceship crashed at Roswell in 1947 why did it take over thirty years for almost ALL the supporting witnesses to come forward and make their astonishing claims ?

Despite this negative conclusion it has to be acknowledged that there are still many unanswered questions about the Roswell incident - such as why did Generals Ramey and Marcel issue such an astonishing press release, or why have so many witnesses claimed to have seen dead alien bodies when none existed. If all that happened at

Roswell was that a handful of chance witnesses became embroiled in the recovery of some unusual balloon technology why did this event spawn tales of recovered alien bodies and a captured alien spaceship ? If the Mogul explanation works, why have so few crash retrieval claims been reported from other countries ? The United States has no monopoly on the development of advanced balloon technology - and there are plenty of regimes around the world where people who stumble across unusual military hardware are quickly persuaded not to talk about what they have seen - so why made the Roswell case so unique ?

Already a number of other problems have been raised by UFOlogists.

1. The GAO investigation was very limited in terms of which agencies it could force to reveal documents eg if the CIA had evidence that the Roswell incident really was a spaceship crash the GAO enquiry would not have uncovered such evidence.

2. It seems very strange that the Project Mogul explanation has only emerged now, 47 years later. If all that happened in 1947 was that a top secret balloon project needed to be covered up why didn't this explanation emerge say ten or twenty years ago ?

3. It seems something of an extraordinary coincidence that the Project Mogul explanation was first uncovered by two UFO researchers, one of whom happened to be married to a leading member of

Congressman Schiff's own staff !

4. Colonel Richard Weaver, the USAF officer who compiled the GAO press release this article is based on, has previously disclaimed the existence of documents relating to the Roswell event, yet now a 1,000 page report has been produced on this same case. Even the most diehard of skeptics has to admit that this really IS peculiar !

5. It has even been suggested by some French skeptics that Project Mogul used captured Japanese PoWs - two years after the end of the war - hence the need to keep the whole thing very quiet !

However one views the outcome of the GAO enquiry no one will be surprised to learn that the GAO goes on to question the actions and behaviour of the leading pro-Roswell researchers. It points out that Congressman Schiff didn't know that there was no mention of the Roswell event in any of the early USAF UFO projects or that the event had not been promoted by anyone until Major Jesse Marcel sold his pro-Roswell story to the "National Enquirer" in 1978. Why not ? Presumably because leading researchers didn't tell him. According to the GAO report some of UFOlogist's most vociferous pro Roswell proponents have been abusing witnesses testimony for years.

A prime example is whether officer Irving Newton (later to become a Major), who claims that his description of how he was summoned by General Ramey to identify the debris in his office has been grossly

misrepresented by UFOlogists. Newton states

"... I walked into the General's office where this supposed flying saucer was lying all over the floor. As soon as I saw it, I giggled and asked if that was the flying saucer ... I told them that this was a balloon and a RAWIN target"

Later Newton stated

"... while I was examining the debris, Major Marcel was picking up pieces of the target sticks and trying to convince me that some notations on the sticks were alien writings. There were figures on the sticks. lavender or pink in colour, appeared to be weather faded markings, with no rhyme or reason (sic). He did not convince me that these were alien writings."

It seems apparent from this one highly instructive comment that it was Major Marcel who was a major component in the flying saucer crash story which was to develop. Newton added

"... During the ensuing years I have been interviewed by many authors, I have been quoted and misquoted. The facts remain as indicated above. I was not influenced during the original interview, nor today, to provide anything but what I know to be true, that is, the material I saw in General Ramey's office was the remains of a balloon and a RAWIN target."

As all UFOlogists know, in UFOlogy a little myth-making always goes a long long way. The apparent misrepresentation of Irving Newton's testimony seems to be a crucial

part of the myth-making desires of certain UFOlogists. The Roswell myth - like Gulf Breeze, MJ12 and a dozen other UFO myths before - will undoubtedly carry on growing and growing in different directions, regardless of the GAO's findings, as the evidence continues to be misrepresented in order to keep the spaceship myth alive and kicking, regardless of such strong negative evidence.

In conclusion it seems that

- leading UFO researchers failed to display the required level of objectivity in their investigations into the Roswell event in order to progress our study of UFO phenomena,

- the failings of this research has now been summarised in a publicly available document available to anyone who wishes to dismiss all UFO claims and evidence on the basis of UFOlogy's "best" case,

- millions of people have been misled about the facts behind the case and now wonder why UFOlogists failed to promote a prosaic explanation, and

- UFO researchers in the United States will not get the opportunity to persuade an important government department to conduct a UFO enquiry again - thanks to the failings of the pro Roswell researchers.

It is sad to see how another misleading and damaging UFO myth has been generated - one which will do UFOlogy's blackened name not the slightest piece of good. However, in the words of Colonel Trakowski, the retired

military officer assigned to the Mogel Project, "This won't lay it to rest. The psychology is simple. People believe what they want to believe. In New Mexico, flying saucerism has become a minor industry. There are whole museums dedicated to the presentation of outrageous fictions". In UFOlogy, the promotion of outrageous fictions seems to be the major reason why some researchers become involved in the subject at all.

ROSWELL: A CASE SOLVED ?

Further comments from Jenny Randles.

Paul Fuller has presented an excellent summary of the GAO investigation into the infamous Roswell encounter. On the surface there seems almost no room for any option other than to conclude that the mystery is now over. UFOlogists got it wrong and the case is closed.

But is that true? Certainly the UFO movement will hardly give up without a fight, but are they justified in doing so? I wanted to add a few pointers, because I have been engaged in a detailed study of the case for a new book discussing the facts behind all known crashed UFO stories ("UFO Retrievals" which Blandford publish next spring.)

Firstly, bear in mind why the story was subject to all the secrecy that it was. This, in my view, had nothing to do with whether there was ever a UFO involved and all to do with historical context and location. The area involved was one of the most sensitive imaginable. Roswell was the only air base

equipped to fly nuclear bombers, nearby were the White Sands missile testing range, the laboratories where nuclear weapons and the intercontinental ballistic missile systems were under development and quite a bit more secret research. Anything - almost of any importance - was bound to be taken more seriously here than if it had occurred elsewhere. Moreover, it was bound to be put under strict security regulations. Remember there was a war on. It was euphemistically called the "cold war" but the need for secrecy was as intense as if it were world war III.

Only two years before there had been a major secret investigation into the so-called "Foo Fighters", witnessed in the main by US air crews over Europe. The nature of these UFOs (actually a recognisable type of UAP to modern day UFOlogists) was never uncovered by top military personnel of the era. Then, only a year before Roswell, there were the "ghost rockets" over Scandinavia. These were even more of a problem, because they were genuinely thought to be secret weapons being tested by the Russians. This was probably not the case, and that conclusion was formulating about the time that the Roswell affair unfolded. Either way, the Americans simply had to be perturbed by an incident which came amidst a wave of UFO activity over their own soil.

As we now know there were several aerial encounters in June and July 1947 which led to the creation of a study project at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, within five months of their occurrence. Roswell came at the start of this and could hardly

be ignored. The USA had been caught out by the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They could not take any chances again.

In addition, it is not widely realised that in July 1947 the armed forces of the USA were not as structured as today. The army and air force were one body on the verge of separation. Any subsequent confusion caused by one unit's involvement in a secret research project which was then kept from other services on a "need to know" basis has to be taken into account. Recall that in January 1948 when Thomas Mantell died in his aircraft whilst chasing a UFO nobody at his base, or indeed in the service branch he worked for, seemed aware of the Skyhook balloon project. This was a naval experiment and Mantell's unit seemingly were kept in the dark about its ongoing nature. As a result the mistaken assumption was made that it was a UFO, one for which a brave pilot paid with his life after climbing too high in a fruitless pursuit.

Another lesson that the Mantell affair teaches is that the US Air Force Project Sign attempted to explain it away in an absurd fashion (claiming that the pilot was chasing Venus!). This was never tenable (as science advisor Dr J Allen Hynek told them) but it was done to calm media fears about alien spacecraft zapping his plane from the sky and because they actually had no better explanation to offer. Even the air force investigators were not fully informed about the Skyhook tests and had to reach conclusions on incomplete evidence as a result of the then incompetent inter-departmental

exchange of information.

It is more than possible that Roswell suffered a similar kind of internal botch up. Very likely the "it was a weather balloon" theory was hastily concocted at Carswell Air Force base for exactly the same reason the "Mantell died chasing Venus" solution was later fabricated. Indeed that latter crazy explanation may have only been foisted onto the public because the same trick worked so well with Roswell six months earlier.

What I am suggesting is that the investigating authorities at Roswell probably knew it was no ordinary balloon that had come down but equally doubted (although they may have suspected) that it was a spaceship. The last thing they wanted was for such a sensational conclusion to be the subject of media debate, so they substituted a fake balloon for the real debris and pushed the balloon argument onto the public. In the meantime they flew the real wreckage to Dayton for analysis.

Bear in mind something else that is important. The concept that the UFO was really a balloon only fooled the public at all because the Roswell wreckage was very balloon like, comprising of parchment, thin foil, balsa wood and the sort. Certainly there were anomalies, such as the alleged near indestructibility of the material found at the crash site, but in general what was frequently reported was far more like a balloon in nature than any kind of interplanetary spaceship. Imagine risking the vacuum of the universe in a craft made out of balsa wood and paper!

I suspect, in a sense, both the believers and the sceptics will be proven right about this case. Something did crash. It was not a mundane balloon. This was just a cover story hastily concocted. But the real object that was present remains open to conjecture. A secret balloon project that the Army Air Force at Roswell knew nothing about is feasible. It may even be vaguely feasible that this true solution was then lost for 50 years in a bureaucratic maze. After all the real culprit for the Mantell crash, whilst suspected for years, was really only uncovered in 1993 by diligent work by a UFOlogist.

The US government could have provided that proof had they been bothered to search their archives at any point in the past. I suspect they were aware that the truth was not as they had told it at the time of the Mantell death and were afraid that too much investigation might reveal not only their incompetence but their cynical attempt to lie to the public. Exactly the same logic may explain why nobody wanted to exhume the Roswell records and search for "the truth" here. It hardly mattered whether that truth would emerge as a secret experiment (as the GAO study claims it has) or something more inexplicable. What the US government knew would emerge was that in 1947 it invented a story, lied to the public and engaged in a cover up because it suspected the object that was recovered might have been a spaceship. That suspicion alone is the problem, not whether it was ultimately proven or disproven to be the case.

17/2-95

So, is there any room left to contemplate that a real UFO was encountered at Roswell? The overwhelming consistency of witness testimony remains and is still a problem. The claims about alien bodies are frankly much less credible and largely emerged long after the fact. None of the key witnesses (eg Major Jesse Marcel or rancher William Brazel) spoke of these. In effect what we have is a curious object that was found in a field, and not an awful lot more.

Even the original press reports on the day when it was being hailed by the media as a "flying saucer" (ie in effect a spaceship) labelled this discovery with the odd and far from sensational word "instrument", as opposed to "craft" or "machine". Imagine the Daily Star using an antiseptic term like that to describe a UFO case today. Any journalist worth their salt would conjure up a graphic image for something purported to be a possible crashed spaceship. Only a fortnight before the enduring phrase "flying saucer" was created by an American writer to describe a less dramatic episode. So why was the Roswell wreckage reported so matter of factly by those on the scene who earned their corn by reporting the news? That one simple fact may say more about all of this than anything else and has been ignored by most researchers so far as I can see.

Of course, the truth could be that this really was an extraterrestrial device. Anyone who rules that out on the strength of the GAO report alone is being hasty, as the GAO purposely avoided trying to

reinvestigate the case and openly admitted as such from day one. All they did was look for missing documentation, which could long since have been spirited away and the trail obscured. All one can conclude is that this possibility of a "smoking gun" and crashed UFO locked away in a vault somewhere, which before the advent of the GAO study was looking a real prospect, is certainly less tenable now in the wake of their findings.

The Roswell story is not over by any means and may never be concluded as so much time has now slipped by. The greatest case that ever was still breathes, just about, but it seems to be surviving on life support.

The Last Word

◆ On 17th December BBC Television will run a 5 hour themed programme about the paranormal. Provisionally titled "Weird TV" it will include some UFO material and will dominate that Saturday's viewing on BBC-2. Items planned include interviews with witnesses and a paranormal review of the year.

◆ The TV series "Strange but True?", made by LWT and hosted by Michael Aspel and featuring research from Peter Hough and Jenny Randles airs right through to 9 December on the ITV network. Initial ratings have proved excellent. That final show in the series is a 30 minute UFO special about the infamous Rendlesham Forest case in December 1980. With special effects and the bringing together of key witnesses for the first

time this looks very dramatic. The book of the series, compiled by Hough & Randles with a forward by Michael Aspel, is published by Piatkus out now at £10.99.

◆ The "Network First" one-hour documentary about the UFO cover-up featuring research by Tim Good was postponed from its 18 October slot on the ITV network at the last minute. No new date has yet been set but it seems likely to be in early 1995. It features reports into cases such as Roswell and Gulf Breeze as well as some UK material.

◆ New UFO titles known to be due for British publishers over the next few months include Jenny Randles "Star Children" from Robert Hale (December), which examines alleged cases where witnesses feel they are 'not of this earth' and from Blandford in early 1995 Albert Budden's long awaited full coverage of his environmental pollution theory ("UFOs: The Electromagnetic Indictment"). Philip Mantle is also known to be working on a new UFO book advertising this recently via a letter in 'TV Times' asking for celebrities to report to him with encounters. If he checks out "Phantoms of the Soap Operas" by Jenny Randles (Robert Hale, 1990) he will find several already compiled - including the day the USS Enterprises's Captain James T Kirk (alias actor William Shatner) claims that he was rescued by a UFO when his motorbike conked out in the middle of the scaring Californian desert!

The new

Ufologist

At last! An original UFO venture.

The New Ufologist is different. Launched in the summer of 1994 by a group of concerned investigators it has three key aims in mind. Firstly, to produce something that reflects serious Ufology - which can update objective scientific theories, without descending into pure scepticism. Plus a medium for the most important new case histories presented in depth. This without rejecting any hypothesis, but also without the need to pander to sensationalism to sell copies. It will be sensible, progressive Ufology.

Also it is free of all group structures. Although positive contributions from any organisation will be accepted, the New Ufologist has no ties with any group. Instead it will be compiled by - and for - the UFO movement, primarily in Britain, with invited contributions from Europe and the rest of the world. At open meetings all readers will be offered a say in determining the format of the next issue. This will be a truly democratic outlet.

Finally, the publication will be non-profit making. It has no members to please and no officers expenses. All income beyond that to produce and distribute the magazine will form a central research and investigation fund. Anyone can submit ideas for a research project or more work on a significant case under investigation. At the regular open gatherings you will be able to allot grants from the fund to support the best of the suggested proposals.

In other words, without creating a new group, the New Ufologist will provide a focus for your case studies and research results. It also plans to create a repository of case files, where all can share the data provided.

Contributors to early issues include Albert Budden, Paul Devereux, Paul Fuller, Rod Howarth, Michael Hudson, Jenny Randles, Andy Roberts, Mike Wootten etc. Subjects range from abductions to crop circles and animal mutilations to psychic issues behind close encounters. Support this new venture with a subscription(plus a donation, if you can afford to add this to the research fund already started by the founders). If you do then you will not only have a solid new journal to read but will back a positive step in British Ufology - where your money funds investigation and research - nothing else !

The New Ufologist cost £8 for 4 issues (UK cheques or foreign money orders in UK funds only, please ... or \$20 in US bills - no foreign cheques please.

I am.....address.....

.....
Special qualifications/research ideas.....
.....

Enclosed is for 4 issues(any extra added is a donation).

Payable to The New Ufologist, c/o 71 Knight Avenue, Canterbury, Kent. CT2 8PY.
